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ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2176	3

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/784,590	DUTTA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James H Blackwell	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 February 2001*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-40* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-40* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *8, 15, 19-19, 24-25, 31, 34-35* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *15 February 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 8, 15, 18, 19, 25, and 35 are objected to because of the following informalities: each of the above claims depend on themselves. Appropriate correction is required. For purposes of examination, the Examiner has assumed the following dependencies: Claim 8 depends on Claim 7, Claim 15 depends on Claim 14, Claim 18 depends on Claim 17, Claim 19 depends on Claim 18, Claim 25 depends on Claim 23, Claim 35 depends on Claim 33.

2. Claims 24, 31, and 34 are objected to because of the following informalities: each of the above claims depend on claims after them. Appropriate correction is required. For purposes of examination, the Examiner has assumed the following dependencies: Claim 24 depends on Claim 23, Claim 31 depends on Claim 30, and Claim 34 depends on Claim 33.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,184).

In regard to independent Claim 1 (and similarly independent Claim 17), Noguchi teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6>. The HTML file in Fig. 4 is processed by the display section (133) and is shown to a user as a graphical image, as is shown in Fig. 5. The HTML tag begins with the start tag <XXXX> and ends with the end tag </XXXX>. Thus, the system can recognize the types of respective tags and can extract (**parse**) them (Col. 11, lines 10-15; Col. 11, lines 20-25). Noguchi also teaches producing an embedded command file. The embedded command file is produced by the HTML analyzer (125) using two procedures. The HTML file shown in Fig. 4 is temporarily converted into a form shown in Table 1 (note in Table 1 how the tags are converted to voice attributes, which include speed, pitch, volume, and intonation). Unnecessary information, such as "<html>" or "<IMG SRC="yamato.gif">," is removed from the HTML file, and the invalid start tag is converted into voice attribute information based on the text attribute/voice attribute conversion table (conversion table 143). The end tag is converted into an embedded command to return the voice attribute, which has been changed by the related start tag, to a default value (Col. 11, lines 63-67; Col. 12, lines 1-4). Noguchi also teaches an example of a tentative file (see Table 2). Compare to Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 17), ***"... parsing the document to identify a presence of a selected tag indicating an emphasis level, wherein text is associated with the selected tag"***). Noguchi also

teaches that the voice synthesizer (165) generates a voice signal in accordance with the voice parameter produced by the parameter generator (163) (Col. 14, lines 43-45). Since the voice synthesization is performed in response to the type of a special word that is included in the text, a user can identify the type of the special word nearly by listening and without using vision, so that he or she can understand the contents of the text (Col. 14, lines 51-56; compare to Claim 1 (and similarly Claim 17), ***"... responsive to an identification of the presence of the selected tag, audibly presenting the text using the emphasis level"***). Noguchi does not explicitly teach that the selected tag is read *... prior to presenting other text within the document*. However, Noguchi does teach that in response to using certain predefined function keys, one can maneuver about the page in a number of ways, some of which would effectively read the selected tags before reading any other text in the web page (see Cols. 17-19). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious to have been able to quickly locate portions of the text, such as hyperlinks before hearing any of the remaining text providing the benefit of audibly locating links to other web sites.

In regard to dependent Claim 2 (and similarly dependent Claims 14, 18, and 30), Noguchi teaches that the communication control (110) controls communications with the Web server (60), as is shown in FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, first, information specifying a URL input at the user input section (127) is received via the input/output controller (121). Based on this information, the Web server (60) is accessed, and an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file is received from the Web server (60) (Col. 10, lines 56-62;

compare with Claim 2 (and similarly Claims 14, 18, and 30), ***"... the document is a markup language document"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 3 (and similarly dependent Claims 15, 19, and 31), Noguchi teaches that the communication control (110) controls communications with the Web server (60), as is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, first, information specifying a URL input at the user input section (127) is received via the input/output controller (121). Based on this information, the Web server (60) is accessed, and an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file is received from the Web server (60) (Col. 10, lines 56-62; compare with Claim 3 (and similarly Claims 15, 19, and 31), ***"... the markup language document is one of a hypertext markup language document and a extensible markup language document"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 4 (and similarly dependent Claims 16, 20, and 32), Noguchi teaches that the communication control (110) controls communications with the Web server (60), as is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, first, information specifying a URL input at the user input section (127) is received via the input/output controller (121). Based on this information, the Web server (60) is accessed, and an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file is received from the Web server (60) (Col. 10, lines 56-62; compare with Claim 4 (and similarly Claims 16, 20, and 32), ***"... the document is a web page"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 5 (and similarly dependent Claim 21), Noguchi teaches in Table 1, an example of the text attribute/voice attribute conversion table (Col. 12, lines 9-33; compare to Claim 5 (and similarly Claim 21), ***"... the selected level of emphasis is selected based on a type for the selected tag"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 6 (and similarly dependent Claim 13), Noguchi teaches that the Web browser (120) includes a data input/output controller (121), an HTML file storage section (123), an HTML analyzer (125), a user input section (127), a focus controller (129), a word list (131), a display section (133), a conversion table (135), and a focus pointer (139)(Col. 9, lines 34-38; compare to Claim 6 (and similarly Claim 13), ***"... the method is located in a web browser"***).

In regard to independent Claim 7 (and similarly independent Claim 23), Noguchi teaches that the communication control (110) controls communications with the Web server (60), as is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, first, information specifying a URL input at the user input section (127) is received via the input/output controller (121). Based on this information, the Web server (60) is accessed, and an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file is received from the Web server (60) (Col. 10, lines 56-62; compare with Claim 7 (and similarly Claim 23), ***"... receiving the document"***). Noguchi also teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6>. The HTML file in Fig. 4 is processed by the display section (133) and is shown to a user as a graphical image, as is shown in Fig. 5. The HTML tag begins with the start tag <XXXX> and ends with the end tag </XXXX>. Thus, the system can recognize the types of respective tags and can extract (**parse**) them (Col. 11, lines 10-15; Col. 11, lines 20-25; compare with Claim 7 (and similarly Claim 23), ***"... parsing the document to identifying a present***

of a selected tag, wherein a set of text is associated with the selected tag"). Noguchi also teaches producing an embedded command file (**data structure**). The embedded command file is produced by the HTML analyzer (125) using two procedures. The HTML file shown in Fig. 4 is temporarily converted into a form shown in Table 1 (note in Table 1 how the tags are converted to voice attributes, which include speed, pitch, volume, and intonation). Unnecessary information, such as "<html>" or "<IMG SRC="yamato.gif">," is removed from the HTML file, and the invalid start tag is converted into voice attribute information based on the text attribute/voice attribute conversion table (conversion table 143). The end tag is converted into an embedded command to return the voice attribute, which has been changed by the related start tag, to a default value (Col. 11, lines 63-67; Col. 12, lines 1-4). Noguchi also teaches an example of a tentative file (see Table 2). Tables 1 and 2 represent lists of commands. Compare to Claim 7 (and similarly Claim 23), ***"... responsive each selected tag identified to form an identified tag, placing the set of text in a data structure; responsive to placing the set of text in the data structure, associating an emphasis level with the set of text; responsive to a completion of parsing the document, presenting each set of text in the data structure using an associated emphasis level"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 8 (and similarly dependent Claim 24), Noguchi teaches (a) producing a word list managing information for specifying the plurality of special words and position information for specifying a position of the plurality of special

words in the sentence (Col. 5, lines 3-7; compare to Claim 8 (and similarly Claim 24), ***"... the data structure is one of a list, a linked list, and a database"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 9 (and similarly dependent Claim 25), Noguchi teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6> (Col. 11, lines 10-15; compare to Claim 9 (and similarly Claim 25), ***"... the set of text is at least one word"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 10 (and similarly dependent Claim 26), Noguchi teaches Table 1 (Col. 12, lines 9-33; compare to Claim 10 (and similarly Claim 26), ***"... the emphasis level is at least one of a volume level and a type of intonation"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 11 (and similarly dependent Claim 27), Noguchi does not explicitly teach that *the text in the data structure is presented prior to presenting other text in the document*. However, Noguchi does teach that in response to using certain predefined function keys, one can maneuver about the page in a number of ways, some of which would effectively read the selected tags before reading any other text in the web page (see Cols. 17-19). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious to have been able to quickly locate portions of the text, such as hyperlinks before hearing any of the remaining text providing the benefit of audibly locating links to other web sites.

In regard to dependent Claim 12 (and similarly dependent Claim 28), Noguchi teaches that the present invention enables a visually impaired user to freely and easily control hypertext. A voice synthesis program orally reads hypertext on the Internet. In synchronization with this reading, the system focuses on a link keyword that is most closely related to the location where reading is currently being performed. When an instruction "jump to link destination" is input (by voice or with a key), the program control can jump to the link destination for the link keyword that is being focused on. Further, the reading of only a link keyword can be instructed (see Abstract; compare to Claim 12 (and similarly Claim 28), ***"... the text is presented audibly"***).

In regard to independent Claim 33, Noguchi teaches a voice synthesis system (100) that includes a central processing unit (CPU) (1) and a memory (4). The CPU (1) and the memory (4) communicate with a hard disk drive (13) as an auxiliary storage device via a bus (2). A floppy disk drive (or a driver for an MO or a CD-ROM) (20) communicates with a bus (2) via a floppy disk controller (19). A floppy disk (or a medium, such as an MO or a CD-ROM) is inserted into the floppy disk drive (or a driver for an MO or a CD-ROM) (20). On the floppy disk and the hard disk drive (13) and in a ROM (14) are stored code for a computer program that sends commands to the CPU (1), etc., while interacting with an operating system to carry out the preset invention. This code is executed by being loaded into the memory (4). The code for the computer program may be compressed, or may be divided into a plurality of code segments and stored in a plurality of storage media. The voice synthesis system (100) can be a used as a system that includes user interface hardware. The user interface hardware

components are, for example, a pointing device (mouse, joystick, etc.) (7) and a keyboard (6) used for input, and a display (12) used to provide visual data to a user. A printer and a modem can be connected, respectively, via a parallel port (16) and via a serial port (15). The voice synthesis system (100) can communicate with another computer via the serial port (15) and the modem, or via a communication adaptor (18) (Col. 8, lines 20-44, Fig. 1; compare to Claim 33, ***"a bus system; a communications unit connected to the bus system; a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; a processing unit connected to the bus system ..."***). Noguchi also teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6>. The HTML file in Fig. 4 is processed by the display section (133) and is shown to a user as a graphical image, as is shown in Fig. 5. The HTML tag begins with the start tag <XXXX> and ends with the end tag </XXXX>. Thus, the system can recognize the types of respective tags and can extract (**parse**) them (Col. 11, lines 10-15; Col. 11, lines 20-25). Noguchi also teaches producing an embedded command file. The embedded command file is produced by the HTML analyzer (125) using two procedures. The HTML file shown in Fig. 4 is temporarily converted into a form shown in Table 1 (note in Table 1 how the tags are converted to voice attributes, which include speed, pitch, volume, and intonation). Unnecessary information, such as "<html>" or "<IMG SRC="yamato.gif">," is removed from the HTML

file, and the invalid start tag is converted into voice attribute information based on the text attribute/voice attribute conversion table (conversion table 143). The end tag is converted into an embedded command to return the voice attribute, which has been changed by the related start tag, to a default value (Col. 11, lines 63-67; Col. 12, lines 1-4). Noguchi also teaches an example of a tentative file (see Table 2). Compare to Claim 33, ***"... wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to parse the document to identifying a presence of a selected tag indicating an emphasis level, wherein text is associated with the selected tag; and, audibly present the text using the emphasis level"***). Noguchi does not explicitly teach that *... prior to presenting other text within the document in response to an identification of the presence of the selected tag*. However, Noguchi does teach that in response to using certain predefined function keys, one can maneuver about the page in a number of ways, some of which would effectively read the selected tags before reading any other text in the web page (see Cols. 17-19). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it obvious to have been able to quickly locate portions of the text, such as hyperlinks before hearing any of the remaining text providing the benefit of audibly locating links to other web sites.

In regard to dependent Claim 34, Noguchi teaches in Fig. 1 a single bus (2). Compare to Claim 34, ***"... the bus system is a single bus"***.

In regard to dependent Claim 35, Noguchi teaches that the present invention can be implemented by a normal personal computer (PC), a workstation, or a combination

of them (hence more than one bus) (Col. 8, lines 53-55; compare to Claim 35, ***"... the bus system includes a primary bus and a secondary bus"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 36, Noguchi teaches that the present invention can be implemented by a normal personal computer (PC), a workstation, or a combination of them (hence more than one processor) (Col. 8, lines 53-55; compare to Claim 36, ***"... the processing unit includes a plurality of processors"***).

In regard to dependent Claim 37, Noguchi teaches that the present invention may be implemented as a client/server system wherein a client machine is connected by a LAN to a server machine via Ethernet or a token ring (Col. 9, lines 9-12; compare to Claim 37, ***"... the communications unit is one of a modem and Ethernet adapter"***).

In regard to independent Claim 38, Noguchi teaches a voice synthesis system 100 that includes a central processing unit (CPU) (1) and a memory (4). The CPU (1) and the memory (4) communicate with a hard disk drive (13) as an auxiliary storage device via a bus (2). A floppy disk drive (or a driver for an MO or a CD-ROM) (20) communicates with a bus (2) via a floppy disk controller (19). A floppy disk (or a medium, such as an MO or a CD-ROM) is inserted into the floppy disk drive (or a driver for an MO or a CD-ROM) (20). On the floppy disk and the hard disk drive (13) and in a ROM (14) are stored code for a computer program that sends commands to the CPU (1), etc., while interacting with an operating system to carry out the preset invention. This code is executed by being loaded into the memory (4). The code for the computer program may be compressed, or may be divided into a plurality of code segments and

stored in a plurality of storage media. The voice synthesis system (100) can be a used as a system that includes user interface hardware. The user interface hardware components are, for example, a pointing device (mouse, joystick, etc.) (7) and a keyboard (6) used for input, and a display (12) used to provide visual data to a user. A printer and a modem can be connected, respectively, via a parallel port (16) and via a serial port (15). The voice synthesis system (100) can communicate with another computer via the serial port (15) and the modem, or via a communication adaptor (18) (Col. 8, lines 20-44, Fig. 1; compare to Claim 38, ***"a bus system; a communications unit connected to the bus system; a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions"***). Noguchi also teaches that the communication control (110) controls communications with the Web server (60), as is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, first, information specifying a URL input at the user input section (127) is received via the input/output controller (121). Based on this information, the Web server (60) is accessed, and an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file is received from the Web server (60) (Col. 10, lines 56-62; compare with Claim 38, ***"... receive a document"***). Noguchi also teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6>. The HTML file in Fig. 4 is processed by the display section (133) and is shown to a user as a graphical image, as

is shown in Fig. 5. The HTML tag begins with the start tag <XXXX> and ends with the end tag </XXXX>. Thus, the system can recognize the types of respective tags and can extract (**parse**) them (Col. 11, lines 10-15; Col. 11, lines 20-25; compare with Claim 38, ***"... parse the document to identifying a present of a selected tag, wherein a set of text is associated with the selected tag"***). Noguchi also teaches producing an embedded command file. The embedded command file is produced by the HTML analyzer (125) using two procedures. The HTML file shown in Fig. 4 is temporarily converted into a form shown in Table 1 (note in Table 1 how the tags are converted to voice attributes, which include speed, pitch, volume, and intonation). Unnecessary information, such as "<html>" or "<IMG SRC="yamato.gif">," is removed from the HTML file, and the invalid start tag is converted into voice attribute information based on the text attribute/voice attribute conversion table (conversion table 143). The end tag is converted into an embedded command to return the voice attribute, which has been changed by the related start tag, to a default value (Col. 11, lines 63-67; Col. 12, lines 1-4). Noguchi also teaches an example of a tentative file (see Table 2). Compare to Claim 38, ***"... place the set of text in a data structure in response each selected tag identified to form an identified tag; and, associate an emphasis level with the set of text in response to placing the set of text in data structure using an associated emphasis level in response to a completion of parsing the document"***).

In regard to independent Claim 39, Noguchi teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In

this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6>. The HTML file in Fig. 4 is processed by the display section (133) and is shown to a user as a graphical image, as is shown in Fig. 5. The HTML tag begins with the start tag <XXXX> and ends with the end tag </XXXX>. Thus, the system can recognize the types of respective tags and can extract (**parse**) them (Col. 11, lines 10-15; Col. 11, lines 20-25; compare with Claim 39, ***"... first instructions for parsing the document to identifying a presence of a selected tag indicating an emphasis level, wherein text is associated with the selected tag"***). Noguchi also teaches that the voice synthesizer (165) generates a voice signal in accordance with the voice parameter produced by the parameter generator (163) (Col. 14, lines 43-45). Since the voice synthesization is performed in response to the type of a special word that is included in the text, a user can identify the type of the special word nearly by listening and without using vision, so that he or she can understand the contents of the text (Col. 14, lines 51-56; compare to Claim 39, ***"... second instructions, responsive to an identification of the presence of the selected tag, for audibly presenting the text using the emphasis level"***). Noguchi does not explicitly teach that *... prior to presenting other text within the document.* However, Noguchi does teach that in response to using certain predefined function keys, one can maneuver about the page in a number of ways, some of which would effectively read the selected tags before reading any other text in the web page (see Cols. 17-19). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention would have found it

obvious to have been able to quickly locate portions of the text, such as hyperlinks before hearing any of the remaining text providing the benefit of audibly locating links to other web sites.

In regard to independent Claim 40, Noguchi teaches that the communication control (110) controls communications with the Web server (60), as is shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, first, information specifying a URL input at the user input section (127) is received via the input/output controller (121). Based on this information, the Web server (60) is accessed, and an HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) file is received from the Web server (60) (Col. 10, lines 56-62; compare with Claim 40, ***"... first instructions for receiving a document"***). Noguchi also teaches that in Fig. 4 is shown a sample of an HTML file used in the preferred embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the HTML file is input to produce a sentence including an embedded command. As is shown in Fig. 4, the HTML file in a text form includes tags, <TITLE>, <H1>, <H2>, <H3>, <H4>, <H5> and <H6>. The HTML file in Fig. 4 is processed by the display section (133) and is shown to a user as a graphical image, as is shown in Fig. 5. The HTML tag begins with the start tag <XXXX> and ends with the end tag </XXXX>. Thus, the system can recognize the types of respective tags and can extract (**parse**) them (Col. 11, lines 10-15; Col. 11, lines 20-25; compare with Claim 40, ***"... second instructions for parsing the document to identifying a present of a selected tag, wherein a set of text is associated with the selected tag"***). Noguchi also teaches producing an embedded command file (**data structure**). The embedded command file is produced by the HTML analyzer (125) using two procedures. The HTML file shown in

Fig. 4 is temporarily converted into a form shown in Table 1 (note in Table 1 how the tags are converted to voice attributes, which include speed, pitch, volume, and intonation). Unnecessary information, such as "<html>" or "<IMG SRC="yamato.gif">," is removed from the HTML file, and the invalid start tag is converted into voice attribute information based on the text attribute/voice attribute conversion table (conversion table 143). The end tag is converted into an embedded command to return the voice attribute, which has been changed by the related start tag, to a default value (Col. 11, lines 63-67; Col. 12, lines 1-4). Noguchi also teaches an example of a tentative file (see Table 2). Tables 1 and 2 represent lists of commands. Compare to Claim 40, ***"... third instructions, responsive each selected tag identified to form an identified tag, for placing the set of text in a data structure; fourth instructions, responsive to placing the set of text in the data structure, for associating an emphasis level with the set of text"***). Noguchi also teaches that the voice synthesizer (165) generates a voice signal in accordance with the voice parameter produced by the parameter generator (163) (Col. 14, lines 43-45). Since the voice synthesization is performed in response to the type of a special word that is included in the text, a user can identify the type of the special word nearly by listening and without using vision, so that he or she can understand the contents of the text (Col. 14, lines 51-56; compare to Claim 40, ***"... and fifth instructions, responsive to a completion of parsing the document, for presenting each set of text in data structure using an associated emphasis level"***).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James H Blackwell whose telephone number is 703-305-0940. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph H Feild can be reached on 703-305-9792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James H. Blackwell
03/25/04

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER